

Message Text

SECRET

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9793

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

S E C R E T BANGKOK 0872

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA TWO)

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: SNAR, BM, TH

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON MINISTER OF DEFENSE DAWEE (CHINESE
IRREGULAR FORCE, HILL PEOPLE, COOPERATION WITH BURMA TO SUPPRESS
NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING)

1. SUMMARY: DURING AMBASSADOR'S CALL JANUARY 14, DAWEE SAID THAT
THE NEXT STEP IN THAI POLICY TOWARDS BOTH THE CHINESE IRREGULAR
FORCES (CIF) AND THAI HILL TRIBES WAS TO OFFER THEM THAI CITIZEN-
SHIP; HOWEVER, HE DID NOT SAY WHEN THIS OFFER WOULD BE MADE. ON
THE POSSIBILITY FOR COOPERATION WITH BURMESE AUTHORITIES TO SUP-
PRESS NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING, DAWEE SAID THE RTG KNEW SOME
BURMESE INSURGENTS WERE QUARTERED IN THAILAND AND THAT THIS
RESTRICTED THE HOPE OF COOPERATION WITH GOB. HOWEVER, DAWEE MAIN-
TAINED THAT GOB LEADER NE WIN WAS AWARE OF INCREASED THAI EFFORTS
TO CUT DOWN THE FLOW OF WEAPONS TO BURMESE INSURGENTS, TRACK DOWN
THEIR COVERT RADIO TRANSMITTERS OPERATING ON THAI SOIL AND REDUCE
INSTANCES OF CORRUPTION OF INDIVIDUAL RTG OFFICIALS THAT
ALLOWED THE INSURGENTS INCREASED FREEDOM TO USE THAI TERRITORY.
END SUMMARY.

2. IN ANSWER TO AMBASSADOR KINTNER'S QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THAI-
LAND WAS PREPARED TO ENCOURAGE INTEGRATION OF THE CIF AND HILL

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TRIBES INTO THAI SOCIETY, MINISTER OF DEFENSE DAWEE ASSURED THE

AMBASSADOR THAT THIS WOULD BE "THE NEXT STEP" IN THAI RELATIONS WITH THESE ETHNIC MINORITIES. AS A SIGN OF HIS OWN PERSONAL ATTITUDE TOWARDS HILL PEOPLE, DAWEE NOTED THAT HE HAD ADOPTED TWO HILL TRIBE CHILDREN AND WAS SUPPORTING THEIR EDUCATION THROUGH COLLEGE. DAWEE SAID, THE CIF FELT THEMSELVES TO BE THAI, WERE MARRIED TO THAI GIRLS AND WERE GRATEFUL FOR THE ASSISTANCE THAILAND WOULD OFFER THE CIF CITIZENSHIP.

3. DCM SAID THAT DURING HIS TRIP TO BURMA, GOB OFFICIALS HAD TOLD HIM THEY WERE UNWILLING TO COOPERATE WITH THAILAND TO SUPPRESS NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING ALONG THAI-BURMESE BORDER AS LONG AS BURMESE INSURGENTS WERE ABLE TO USE THAILAND AS A SANCTUARY FOR THEIR ANTI-GOB OPERATIONS. DCM SAID ARGUMENT HE HAD HEARD THAT THAI WERE HELPING THESE INSURGENTS AS A "FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE" AGAINST COMMUNISTS DID NOT HOLD UP SINCE SOME OF THESE INSURGENTS ARE ACTUALLY COLLABORATING WITH THE BCP. DAWEE SAID RTG WAS AWARE, THROUGH ITS OWN INTELLIGENCE CHANNELS OF THIS FACT. DAWEE ASSURED THE AMBASSADOR THAT NE WIN HIMSELF KNEW OF DAWEE'S SUPPORT FOR INCREASED RTG EFFORTS TO: A) CUT DOWN THE FLOW OF ARMS MOVING FROM LAOS ACROSS NORTHERN THAILAND TO BURMA, B) TRACK DOWN AND SUPPRESS CLANDESTINE BURMESE INSURGENT RADIO TRANSMITTING STATIONS OPERATING IN THAILAND, AND C) RESTRICT TO AS FEW INSTANCES AS POSSIBLE CORRUPTION OF INDIVIDUAL RTG OFFICIALS ALONG THE BORDER WITH BURMA WHICH ALLOWED BURMESE INSURGENTS INCREASED FREEDOM TO USE THAI TERRITORY AS A SANCTUARY.
KINTNER

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